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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-11 NEA-10 NSAE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, OECD
SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP OF TRADE COMMITTEE (TC)

REFS: (A) OECD PARIS 33568, (B) STATE 004647

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH MISSION OFFICERS, CHIEF OF OECD TRADE DIRECTORATE POINCILIT HAS SAID THAT HE (AND SEC GEN VAN LENNEP) ARE NOW AWARE OF TWO CANDIDATES FOR TC CHAIRMAN: BRATTSTROM (SWEDEN) AS REPORTED REF A, AND (MRS.) STEEG (FRG). POINCILIT NOTED THAT TWO VICE CHAIRMANSHIPS, CURRENTLY HELD BY LANGUETIN (SWITZERLAND) AND MIYAZAKI (JAPAN) WILL ALSO BE VACANT AS RESULT OF REASSIGNMENTS. SWISS HAVE INDICATED THEY WISH TO RETAIN ONE OF THESE (WITH LEVY). WHILE JAPANESE HAVE NOT MADE THEIR WISHES KNOWN, PONCILIT'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT THEY WILL PROBABLY WANT TO KEEP THIS POSITION, WHILE BEING AWARE THAT IT SHOULD BE SOMEONE WHO NORMALLY ATTENDS TC MEETINGS (WHICH MIYAZAKI HAS NOT).

2. ON TIMING, SECRETARIAT EXPECTS SWEDES AND GERMANS TO BEGIN LOBBYING IMMEDIATELY, FORMER IN CAPITALS AND LATTER IN PARIS. FEB. 3-4 MEETING OF TC WOULD NATURALLY BE
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OCCASION FOR CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS, AND ELECTIONS WOULD

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TAKE PLACE AT FOLLOWING MEETING OF TC, PROBABLY IN MAY OR JUNE.

3. HISTORICALLY, POINCILIT NOTED TC CHAIRMANSHIP HAD ALWAYS BEEN HELD BY GERMAN OCCUPYING FOREIGN MINISTRY JOB UNTIL RECENTLY HELD BY HERMES, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SOME MILD RUMBLINGS FROM TIME TO TIME IN FAVOR OF ROTATING THIS POSITION. STEEG, FROM MIN. OF ECON. AFFAIRS WOULD OF COURSE BE SOME CHANGE IN TRADITION, IF ONLY INTERNAL TO FRG. VICE CHAIRMEN HAVE TRADITIONALLY INCLUDED ONE NON-EC EUROPEAN AND ONE NON-EUROPEAN (AS SORT OF BALANCE TO EC CHAIRMAN).

4. FRG'S STEEG IS WELL KNOWN IN OECD, HIGHLY RESPECTED BY HER COLLEAGUES, AND CONSIDERED BY MISSION TO HAVE DONE EXCELLENT JOB AS CHAIRMAN OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE. WE WOULD RATE HER FINE CHOICE FOR TC CHAIRMAN. WE CONCUR WITH DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF BRATTSTROM, WHOSE RELATIVE LACK OF OECD CREDENTIALS COMPARED TO MRS. STEEG MEANS HE WILL FACE AN UPHILL FIGHT FOR CHAIRMANSHIP IN ANY CASE.
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